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1. (Currently Amended) A spark plug, comprising:

- a partially cylindrical insulator element;
- a housing enclosing the partially cylindrical insulator element; and
- a connection including at least one material bond by which the partially cylindrical insulator element and the housing are connected to one another; and
- an interlayer produced prior to the connection and by which the partially cylindrical insulator element and the housing are connected with one another.

wherein:

the interlayer is one of applied and attached to the partially cylindrical insulator element;

the interlayer is attached to the housing using at least one material bond;

a gap is located between the housing and the interlayer in a region of a section lying closer to a base part of the partially cylindrical insulator element;  
and

the interlayer is connected to the housing in a second section further away from the base part.

2. (Original) The spark plug according to claim 1, wherein:

- the partially cylindrical insulator element includes a base part, and
- a diameter further from a combustion chamber of the partially cylindrical insulator element at least one of remains approximately equal and increases with an increasing distance from a free end of the base part in an entire region surrounded by the housing.

3. (Original) The spark plug according to claim 1, wherein:

- the partially cylindrical insulator element includes a base part, and

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an inner diameter of the housing in a region of the connection at least one of remains the same and increases with an increasing distance from a free end of the base part.

4. (Original) The spark plug according to claim 1, wherein:

the partially cylindrical insulator element includes a base part, and  
a diameter of the partially cylindrical insulator element in a region on a side further from the base part adjoining a region surrounded by the housing is approximately equal to a largest diameter of the partially cylindrical insulator element in a region surrounded by the housing.

5. (Original) The spark plug according to claim 1, wherein:

the partially cylindrical insulator element includes a base part,  
the housing includes at least one tubular section in which a diameter of the partially cylindrical insulator element is only slightly smaller than an inner diameter of the housing at the same distance to a free end of the base part, and  
a connection along a circumference of the partially cylindrical insulator element closes a gap between the partially cylindrical insulator element and the housing.

6. (Original) The spark plug according to claim 5, further comprising at least one of:

a first tubular section arranged near a free end of the base part; and  
a second tubular section arranged further away from the base part.

7. (Original) The spark plug according to claim 1, wherein:

the connection includes at least one of a soldered connection, a welded connection, and an adhesive connection.

8. (Original) The spark plug according to claim 1, wherein:

the housing includes at least one tubular section, and  
a diameter of the partially cylindrical insulator element is slightly larger than an inner diameter of the housing, when the partially cylindrical insulator element

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is not in place, at the same distance to a free end of a base part of the partially cylindrical insulator element.

9. (Previously Presented) The spark plug according to claim 8, wherein:  
the connection further includes a friction-lock connection aligned in a radial direction, and the friction-lock connection is produced by an installation of the partially cylindrical insulator element into the housing, the housing having a higher temperature than the partially cylindrical insulator element at a time of the installation.

10. (Canceled).

11. (Currently Amended). The spark plug according to claim [[10]] 1, wherein:  
the interlayer extends into regions outside the connection.

12. (Canceled).

13. (Currently Amended) The spark plug according to claim [[12]] 1, wherein:  
another gap is located between the partially cylindrical insulator element and the interlayer in a region of a third section of the interlayer further away from the base part.

14. (Original) The spark plug according to claim 1, wherein:  
the partially cylindrical insulator element includes a ceramic, and  
a surface of the ceramic is treated in a region of the connection such  
that a load capacity of the connection is increased.

15. (Original) The spark plug according to claim 1, wherein:  
the connection forms at least a significant portion of a cohesion of the  
housing and the partially cylindrical insulator element.

CANCEL CLAIMS

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